



VOMARC Elections

—By Robert KA5WSS

It seems like election time is nearly year round now. It's exhausting. Well, here's some more to pile on. It's almost election time at VOMARC again! Club elections are held during the November meeting. What we're doing this month is asking for nominations for officers to serve through the 2023 term.

You can see the full slate of officer positions and the individuals who currently serve in the "Cast of Characters" section near the end of this newsletter or vomarc.org's [officers page](#). Please bring your ideas for candidates for each of the positions to the October meeting. If you will not be able to make the October meeting send us a note and we'll get your nomination announced. We'll also accept late nominations at the November meeting right before voting.

I'd like to encourage anyone interested to run for an office, including the office of President! I've been honored to serve as President for a couple of years. But it's always good to get a fresh perspective and new ideas injected into a group. I am more than willing to pass the baton on to someone who wants to step up. Bring your ideas to the October meeting please!

Thanks to those members who stepped up and assumed net control duties in the months of September and October. Because of personal availability and technical issues, it looks like we now have open slots for both of these months for net control. Will you tackle one of those months for the club? Being net control is quite easy, it mostly involves reading from a [prepared script](#) and acknowledging stations as they check in. It's a great way to meet and become more familiar with club members so please get in touch with us if you're interested.

NEXT MEETING

Wed, October 19, 2022, 7:30pm
Zoom meeting room info will be emailed later.

Topic: **Pico Ballooning and Ham Radio**
Presenter: **Brian Basura (N6CVO)**

VE Liaison News

—By Elizabeth N6LY

Our next test session will be on Saturday, October 29.

Please reserve in advance if you want to join the hobby or move on to the next level.

We will still be requiring masks and will seat candidates appropriately spaced.

This is a testing session only, we don't offer classes or cram sessions.

If you are testing for a new license, you will be required to pay a \$35 fee to the FCC, in addition to the fee below, once you pass the test to receive your license and call sign. This does not apply to upgrades.

Sponsor: Valley of the Moon ARC

Time: 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM if there is enough demand

(Reservations required)

Contact: Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey (N6LY)

Email: n6ly.emm (at) [gmail.com](mailto:n6ly.emm@gmail.com)

Location: Sonoma Police Station EOC room
175 1st Street West, Sonoma

Candidate Requirements:

- A photo identification or (2) non-photo ID's
- [FCC Registration Number](#)
- Original and a photocopy of your current license (if licensed)
- Any original valid CSCE's and a photocopy of each
- Radiotelegraph license, if held (see VE)
- Exam fee is \$15.00, Under 18 is \$5.00

COVID-19 Requirements

To ensure the health and safety of all applicants and examiners, for the duration of

the COVID-19 pandemic the following requirements also apply. There will be no exceptions to these requirements.

- All candidates must reserve a spot ahead of time via email. See contact info above.
- Sessions limited to six applicants at a time.
- All participants must wear a mask (covering both the mouth and nose).
- Please bring your own pens and pencils.
- Chairs and desks will be sanitized before each session.

Why Test With Us?

Every candidate who takes an FCC examination with VOMARC is entitled to a free year's worth of membership in the club, regardless of whether you pass or not! Each applicant is also provided with a welcome kit of some helpful information on how to get started on their Amateur Radio adventure.

VOMARC Picnic

After missing a couple of years due to COVID, VOMARC's annual picnic was back on the menu for 2023. This year John (W8EWL) offered up his stunning QTH for the festivities. Jaw dropping vistas, great food and enjoyable conversations were in ample supply.



Visitors also got to see a nice presentation by Michael (KMLF) and Ron (NZ6J) from the [North Bay Area Mesh](#) group. They demonstrated some working equipment used in the high speed digital microwave network that spans much of the Bay Area. They are looking to expand that

network further into Marin and Sonoma counties.

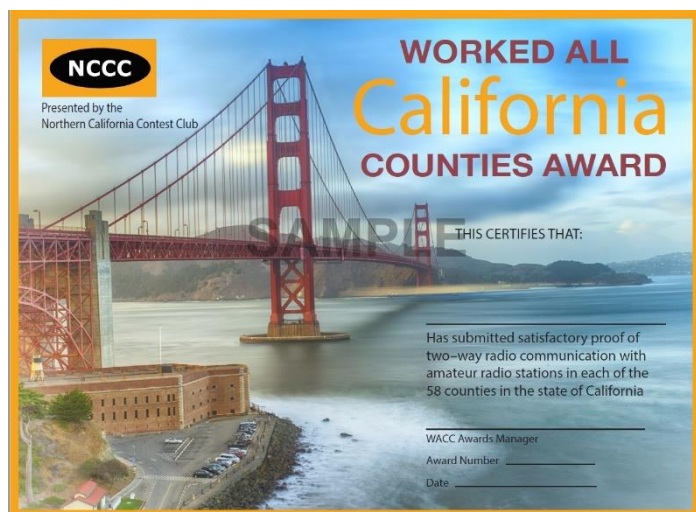


Thanks to John for the locale and to Ed (W1EJ) for being the grill meister!

—Submitted by Robert, KA5WSS

CA QSO Party

This year marked the first time I've participated in the [California QSO Party](#). I was not expecting to put many hours in at the mic but figured I'd see what could be done from my modest home station. The CA QSO Party (a.k.a CQP) is also an excellent contest to use to work toward the [Worked All California Counties](#) award which is also sponsored by the [Northern California Contest Club](#).



In the end I made 112 QSOs (some contacts count for multiple counties if they are on the county lines). Of the 58 counties in the state I worked stations in 41 of them. With a bit more

luck and/or getting my CW setup working I could have nabbed a few more.

Working stations close in state is far easier on 40M and 80M than on the higher bands, even with a relatively short low end fed longwire antenna. I rarely failed to get through to CA stations calling CQ on the lower bands. This might be the first contest I've ever participated in where I had far more QSOs at 40M or below (83 QSOs) versus 20M and above (29 QSOs). Partly, this is due to my focus on working counties in the state instead of trying to answer the large number of out of state stations looking for CA contacts.

That's another neat aspect of this contest. Even a small CA station is of interest to other participants around the world. It's great to feel wanted!

We might consider a "VOMARC QSO Party" on 40M and/or 80M next year during the contest to allow members to work each other. I'll definitely be back for the 2023 running of the contest. After all, I still have 17 more counties to work.

I wasn't the only VOMARC member taking part in the fun. You can see Frank's writeup elsewhere in this issue. Here are all of the VOMARC stations I know participated at some level:

Callsign	QSOs	QSO Points	Mults	Score
KG6N	405	1215	54	65,610
N6TTV	389	1167	54	63,018
KA5WSS	112	224	23	5,152
N7TSQ	15			
W8EWL	??			

—Submitted by Robert, KA5WSS

KG6N CQP Report

CQP each year is primarily the event I operate. I farm my wife and kids out to my in-laws and try to keep my butt in the chair, sometimes... This year was no different. I cleared the clean laundry from its home on the back of the garage ham shack, re-assembled the gear from field day, and ran some qso's on ft8 to make sure it works. So far so good.

Saturday morning, I kiss the kids goodbye, remind my wife how much I appreciate her putting up with weird radio stuff, and empty the last of her pot of coffee into the mug. Pumpkin spice? Not too bad.

I start on time and make contacts with ease for an hour or so and decide to move up to 15 meters. I call cq and the usb ports on the computer fail. My Winkeyer string repeats my CQ with callers wondering what I'm smoking here from SONO. I unplug and replug the keyboard, mouse, and win keyer and it stops. I go to 100 watts, same mess. This is when I remember Bill WX6B graciously nudging me to operate CW from his shack. I unplug my headset and keyer/paddles and go for a ride. Once there I plug in the keyer and headphones and configure the logger for the Winkey, all ok. First CQ, usb shuts down on his PC, damn. A few toroid's later and were cured and back in the running. A couple hundred qso's and a hamburger later and we're canning CQP for Sunday's fishing trip. At home I made about 400 contacts and no further rfi. Next year.

-- Submitted by Frank, KG6N

SCRA Sunday Night 2 Meter Ragchew Net

Chuck Tarr, WA6VAG has worked with SCRA President, Iola Beckley and the Board of Directors to institute the new SCRA Ragchew Net which meets every Sunday evening at 8:00PM

on the W6SON club repeater, 147.315 MHz, positive offset, PL 88.5.

This is a moderated net intended to bring hams together in a relaxed, friendly and informal atmosphere allowing us to have some fun and make new friends. The evening net sessions have brought a group of enthusiastic hams together for a good old-fashioned "roundtable" or "Round Robin" style ragchew QSO. The net usually meets for about 40-60 minutes to inform, enlighten and perhaps add a bit of humor to the day. All hams are invited to check in and join in.

Stations will be worked in rotation based on the order in which they checked in. You may of course leave the net at your leisure, but you are encouraged to stay for additional rounds of comments to continue the conversation. Upon checking into the net, stations give their call signs phonetically, along with the operator's name and location.

If a station wishes to leave, let net control know so that you can be removed from the rotation for the evening. At intervals, net control will ask for additional check-ins which will then be placed in the rotation. When each rotation is concluded, net control will start at the top of the rotation for the next round. To comment out of turn, say "comment" or "contact" and wait to be recognized by net control.

Roundtable ragchew QSOs are in the true spirit of amateur radio and consistent with the "Basis and Purpose" of the Amateur Radio Service as set out in Part 97.1 and provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information on topics such as electrical theory and operating techniques, license upgrades, opinions, local weather, sports, your latest home project, gardening, and swapping, buying or selling ham gear (consistent of course with the Part 97.113(3)(ii) rule). We do try to avoid divisive, controversial political/social issues.

We hope to hear you on the net! Bring your questions and comments and say hi!

-- Submitted by Chuck, WA6VAG

Trading Post

- Elizabeth (N6LY) and Kevin (K6YD) are selling their NA4RR hex beam for \$475.
- Robert (KA5WSS) has an Extra Class license manual for free to whoever wants it. The question pool is dated, but the contents are still valid.
- The club has Technician, General and Extra Class quick study guides for free loan to any club member.

—Submitted by Robert, KA5WSS

Misc

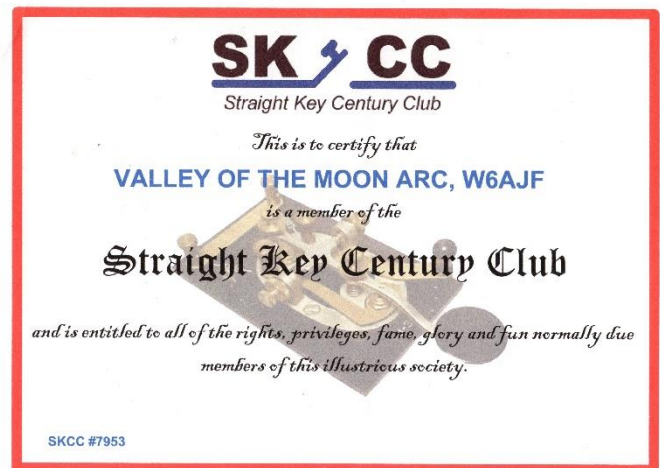
- **Sanford (N7PIB)** has worked at least 2,686 parks as part of the [Parks on the Air](#) (POTA) program.
- The 10M band has been fairly active lately as the Solar Flux Index has been above 150. Everyone has privileges on that band, so fire up the radios and enjoy Cycle 25!
- A cheating scandal is brewing in the world of chess and [Morse Code is said to be one of the techniques](#) being employed.
- One of the [smallest electronics shops in Japan's famous Akihabara](#) area recently closed after decades in business.
- Need a variable capacitor but don't have the needed part on hand since your favorite electronics shop in Akihabara just closed? You could think about [using a cut up Coke can to do the job](#).

- Connecting your portable generator to your household wiring with a male to male "extension cord" is a really, really dumb idea. Just because [they are on Amazon](#) doesn't mean you should ever buy one.

—Submitted by Robert, KA5WSS

From The Archives

Among the papers our past President Jim (K6UUW) left behind was this certificate for the club's [Straight Key Century Club](#) membership.



—Submitted by Robert, KA5WSS

Use the PSK Reporter to see FT8 Signal Propagation!

From: ARRL Propagation Forecast Bulletin 39
ARLP039 From Tad Cook, K7RA Seattle, WA
September 30, 2022 To all radio amateurs

You do not need to be an FT8 user to use it to check out the bands. Just go to the pskreporter map page at <https://pskreporter.info/pskmap.html> and select the band you are interested in (they even have 11 meters!).

Next, select the default "Signals" and "Sent/Received by" and change "the callsign" to "grid square," entering your own four-character grid (or one near you with a larger ham population) and in the "Using" field select FT8.

Hit "Go!" and you will see where stations in your area are being received, including signal levels.

You can enter your own call instead of the grid, and select "Country of Callsign," and you will see activity all over your nation. I find it interesting early in the day to use this on 10 meters, and what I usually see is activity all over the East Coast, and especially in the southeast U.S. but not here on the west coast.

But I know that the 10 meter openings will advance across the country with the movement of Earth relative to our Sun.

Explore the "Display options" link just to the right of the time listed in the "over the last" field, and you can customize this tool. I like to select "Show time text in black always," "Show connecting lines always," and "Show SNR."

The "Show logbook" link is very useful, once you have done a search.

Often, I will use this, searching for the callsign of an FT8 station who has mysteriously disappeared after connecting to me. I can sort the entries by Time to find out if anyone has

received that station since I last saw that station's signal.

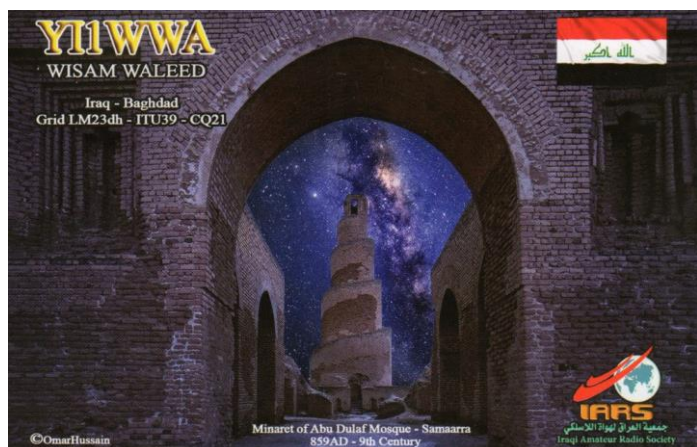
The default "over the last" setting is 15 minutes, but when searching for a callsign you can vary the time over the past 24 hours.

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

QSL Card Inbox



Here's an All Time New One (ATNO) for me. This card confirms a 17M FT8 contact with [ZC4GR](#) on the island of Cyprus. However, Garry was on the UK Sovereign Base on the island and it counts as a separate DXCC country.



And here's another ATNO for the month. This stunning QSL card confirms my 20M SSB QSO with [YI1WWA](#) in Iraq. I wasted no time in getting this QSO confirmed!

—Submitted by Robert .KA5WSS

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 26 EDITION 10 A PUBLICATION OF VOMARC, THE VALLEY OF THE MOON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Robert Barron KA5WSS – President

Ed Jacobson, W1EJ – Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey, N6LY – VE Liaison

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS – Webmeister

"Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC. "—S. Marler

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

Breakfast Nets are held every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 7:30 AM on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

—or—

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

ACS

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	FK6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ROBERT	KA5WSS
FEBRUARY	DARREL	WD6BOR
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	ED	W1EJ
AUGUST	CARL	N6TTV
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2022

Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.